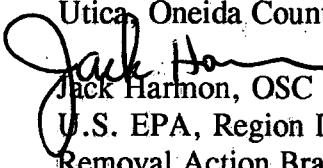


**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

I. HEADING

Date: October 6, 1997

Subject: Bossert Manufacturing Site
Utica, Oneida County, New York

From:  Jack Harmon, OSC
U.S. EPA, Region II
Removal Action Branch

To: J. Fox, EPA
R. Salkie, EPA
B. Bellow, EPA
R. Cahill, EPA
G. Zachos, EPA
J. Yu, EPA
J. Rotola, EPA
ERRD, Washington (E-Mail)
M. O'Toole, NYSDEC
J. Dirnan, NYSDEC
J. Regan, NYSDEC
E. Hanna, City of Utica
S. Boehlert, U.S. Congress, 23rd District
R. Meier, State Senate, 47th District
R. DeStito, State Assembly, 116th District
R. Eannace, County of Oneida
START

POLREP NO. 1 (Initial)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	S7
Delivery Order No.:	2101-02-010
Response Authority:	CERCLA
ERNS No.:	N/A
CERCLIS No.:	NYD002249563
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
Action Memo Status:	Approved on 9/29/97
Start Date:	9/30/97
Demobilization Date:	N/A
Completion Date:	N/A

438964



III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA incident category: Inactive Production Facility

B. Site Description

The Bossert Manufacturing Site (site) is an abandoned production facility located at 1002 Oswego Street in the City of Utica, Oneida County, New York. The Bossert facility was used for the stamping, weldment, and fabrication of sheet metal items such as brake backing plates and steel floor grates from 1896 until the mid-1980's. During its operation, PCB oils were utilized in transformers and in hydraulic presses used in the manufacturing process. As a result of past manufacturing practices and salvage operations at the site, interior surfaces on floors and walls of the facility, as well as machinery and other structures within the building, became contaminated with PCBs.

Bossert Manufacturing Corporation filed for Chapter 11 on May 20, 1983 and on May 17, 1986, amended their filing status to Chapter 7 Bankruptcy. The City of Utica assumed ownership of the property through tax foreclosure. On October 29, 1986, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) informed the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of an incident involving two teenage individuals that were exposed to chemicals while "playing" on-site. On November 17, 1986, after approval of a Request for Rapid Authorization of CERCLA removal action monies, EPA initiated a removal action that included 24-hour security and installation of night-time lighting. Upon completion of preliminary assessment activities, EPA began cleanup activities on May 5, 1987. Previous response resulted in the cleaning of the building's interior surfaces and consolidating approximately 3,500 cubic yards of PCB contaminated debris into two rooms inside a prepared and secure "vault" area.

The site consists of a 175,000 square foot building situated on approximately six acres of land. The facility is located in a densely populated area in Utica. The site is bounded to the east by a major highway carrying a daily average of 75,000 vehicles. Residential and commercial areas encompass the site to the north, south, and west. The Washington and Kernan Schools, which have a combined enrollment of approximately 2,000 students, are less than five blocks from the site.

The NYSDEC referred the site to EPA on March 17, 1997. The NYSDEC requested that EPA conduct a removal action at the site pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601-9675. Remediation activities associated with an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) between the NYSDEC and the City of Utica were not undertaken due to financial hardship of the city. On April 14,

1997, the EPA Removal Section Chief, along with representatives from the NYSDEC, visited the site and performed a removal assessment. Evidence of public entry and vandalism was in abundance (i.e., holes in fencing, graffiti, doors ripped off hinges, numerous broken windows, etc.). The "vault" area that was once secure has been broken into and obvious vandalism has occurred. Several areas of roofing have collapsed and friable asbestos is abundant throughout the facility hanging from pipes as well as in piles on the floor. Asbestos is designated as a CERCLA hazardous substance under 40 CFR Table 302.4, when it is friable. Friability is the ease with which a material can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder when dry, by hand pressure. The large volume of PCB contaminated debris and asbestos, along with the continuing deterioration of the building, presents a potential threat to human health and/or the environment.

CERCLA funds have been activated to abate the threat to public safety and the environment. Activity will include the off-site disposal of approximately 3,500 cubic yards of PCB contaminate debris, asbestos abatement, decontamination of mechanical and hydraulic presses, and the partial demolition/shoring of a building.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Removal Actions to Date

9/29/97 - 10/3/97: OSC, ERCS, and START mobilized to site to initiate removal activities. ERCS Recovery Technicians (RTs) began to clear and grub vegetation from within the site property. ERCS Project Accountant (PA) began procurement of an office trailer, electrical service, telephone service, plumbing, and various other site necessities took place throughout this week. ERCS Response Manager (RM) began developing a work plan for upcoming site activities and began researching transportation and disposal (T&D) methods for PCB contaminated debris.

OSC developed community relations with local officials to relay information on the overall scope of work to be performed. OSC will remain in contact with local officials throughout the duration of the site.

START began to generate an Administrative Record for the site which will be placed in the local repository upon approval from the OSC. START conducted contractor monitoring, photo documentation, and provided technical support during all site activity.

2. Enforcement

The PRP Search for the site has been initiated and enforcement efforts are continuing.

B. Planned Removal Actions

ERCS will begin construction of personnel and scrap metal decontamination areas within the site building. Subcontractors will visit the site to bid on the T&D of PCB contaminated debris.

C. Key Issues

The building will require a means of weather protection to allow indoor work during the severe winter months this section of New York is known for.

V. COST INFORMATION AS OF OCTOBER 6, 1997 *

ERCS Contractor	\$	1,693,650
START Contractor Costs		121,901
Intramural Costs		<u>198,657</u>
TOTAL	\$	2,014,208
Project Ceiling	\$	5,990,000
Percent of Project Funds Remaining		66.4%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.